GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:20.10.2008
REDUCTION IN STD CALL RATES
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the STD call rates of MTNL and BSNL to the Arab Countries is much higher as compared to the rates for western Countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reduce the STD rates for Arab Countries to bring it in parity with other Countries;and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) Sir, the ISD (International Subscriber Dialing) rates of MTNL & BSNL to Arab countries is higher as compared to some Western countries namely USA, Canada & U.K. However, for other western countries in Europe (other than U.K. for BSNL and U.K.-fixed for MTNL), the ISD rates of MTNL & BSNL are same as for Arab countries.

(b) The details of ISD call rates are given in the Annexure.

Higher calling rates for Arab countries is on account of the higher termination 7 carriage charges payable for carrying the international call to these countries.While termination and carriage charges vary from Rs.0.33 to Rs.1.70 per minute for USA, Canada & U.K., for Arab countries the same is Rs.1.79 to Rs.7.00 per minute.

(c) At present, there is no proposal in BSNL and MTNL to reduce the ISD call rates from India to Arab Countries.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.